



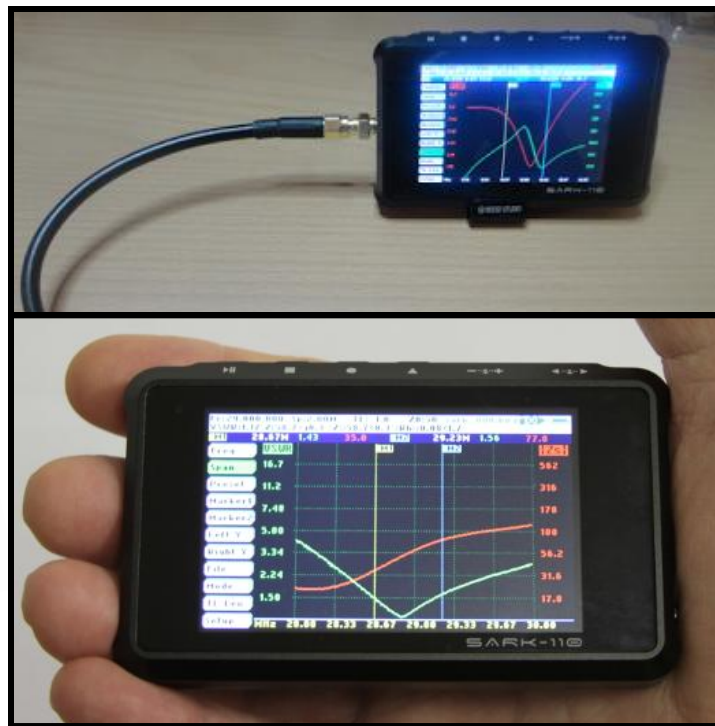
The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
September 2015 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 24, Issue 9



## Antenna Analyzers



Which One is Right For You?

# Message from the President

Huntsville Hamfest has come and gone. I really enjoyed that and also enjoyed the company of the many GARS members that attended. It truly is one of the best Hamfests within an easy days drive from here. I got to attend the audio forum with Bob Heil. Most of you know that audio is my favorite area in Ham Radio. He did a great job of laying out why you would want a mixer in your shack and was very convincing. It doesn't have to break the bank. I would be happy to discuss the "ins and out" if anyone is planning on purchasing a mixer or other audio gear to accompany your ham gear. I also got to sit in on the APRS forum. It really opened my eyes to what can be done with the technology.

Back at home we just finished up another dog show and it was a great success. We were a little short-handed on the last day but all was taken care of properly. Please plan to do your part in helping GARS finance its future by volunteering for the next event. It is very important to our financial well-being.

Our next exciting event will be participation in the upcoming ARRL VHF contest on September the 12<sup>th</sup> at Bogan Park. This will be the first time GARS has participated in a VHF contest since I have been a member and I'm sure it will be exciting. We always have a great time at events at Bogan Park and I'm sure this will be no exception. There are plans for at least 3 stations and as many antennas. Unlike HF stations, the primary consideration for VHF propagation is altitude. Unless we are lucky enough to get some 6 meter bounce, many of the contacts will be by ground wave. That means the higher the better. The object is to work as many different stations as possible in as many different "Maidenhead" grid squares as possible. More information can be



"....Plan to come out the JOTA on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Post 5255 [Lawrenceville] and support your local troops. The event is for all scouts and anyone who wants to learn more about amateur radio. ..."

found on the GARS.org home page and at [www.arrl.org/september-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf).

I also want to make a quick mention of the upcoming Jamboree on the Air which is also mentioned on the GARS.org home page. GARS is proud to support scouting and many members of our club are active scout volunteers. Plan to come out the JOTA on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Post 5255 [Lawrenceville] and support your local troops. The event is for all scouts and anyone who wants to learn more about amateur radio. We had a nice turnout last year and I hope to see

you there.

73s,

*Rick*, N4XXY

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS September Meeting

## “The SARK110 Antenna Analyzer ”

by WK2Y, Bob Gerzoff <http://www.sark110.com/>

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015  
Start Time: 7:00 pm  
Come Early—get a good seat!*

**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions](#)

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### GARS Communications

#### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

#### APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

#### D-Star

WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

#### 2 Meter Repeater

147.255(+) MHz  
107.2 PL Tone

#### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)  
No PL tone

#### 70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone  
442.100(+) MHz  
100 PL Tone

**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [n4gyn@arrl.net](mailto:n4gyn@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)





# Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

**AB4HF - Jeff Cutchins**

When you click on the link below you will find this picture of his “shack”.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/ab4hf>

Read his notes and get to know him better.  
You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from his page:

*“I was on the north beach of Jekyll Island IOTA # NA-058, a 10mile long by 3mile wide, barrier island off the coast of Georgia, USA. working conditions: Icom 706, 100w, 20m hamstick. 160 contacts. Worked lots of Australian and Alaskan stations. Salt water made my 100w Hamstick more efficient than 500w 266' Delta Loop at my home QTH in Atlanta, GA.”*

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!

Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
Editor



## Presentations at August Meeting



Vaden McDonald—NN4K being presented with a certificate for:

Most Contacts! - FIELD DAY 2015



Charles Osborne—K4CSO being given the Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation:

Working Half the USA on 2M and Above!



# Radio News

## Annual Dog Show Support

Date: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00am to 2:00pm

Location: 3650 Jonesboro Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354



Thanks to everyone who helped with this Bi-Annual Event  
These are a part of the crew that made it happen!

## Katrina - Ham Radio's Untold Story

**Ten years ago**, Amateur Radio operators stepped up to provide reliable communications in the wake of Hurricane Katrina when every other communication system collapsed. These trained, federally-licensed volunteers did so willingly and free of charge. This is what Ham Radio does for communities in times of need.

Watch this incredible video about what it was like and how Amateur Radio operators made the difference!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IITBpLQmmiI>

## TENNESSEE QSO PARTY

My brother, David Bailey, KF4ZPN, belongs to Dickson Amateur Radio Club (DARC) in Dickson, TN, and they have been selected to be the "Bonus Station" in Tennessee during the QSO Party. They will be operating as K4TCG, the "Bonus Station" for Tennessee. David will be operating JT-65 during the QSO Party which runs from 1pm Saturday, 9/6/15, to 10pm Sunday, 9/7/15. He has invited us to contact him on JT-65 during the QSO Party. He will be on 20 meters (14.076 MHz) during daylight hours and move to 40 meters (7.076 MHz) from dusk through the night.

For more information about JT-65, go to <http://hfink.com/jt65/>

Thanks! Ray—N4GYN (Editor)



# SOTA - Summits On The Air



## Summits On The Air

### Navigating To Nowhere

[This month's topic is about a subject that could get you hurt. Make sure you understand the risks. Do not rely on this content to keep you safe.]

#### Initial Planning

After you've visited a few summits, you may get a hankering to visit a summit that is... out of the way. Perhaps it is on a remote trail. It might require [bushwhacking](#). This month's topic is how to get to the middle of nowhere.

After you've visited <http://www.sotamaps.org/>, you'll have a good idea of where your summit is located. You just need to figure out how to get there. (If you're lucky, there will be a trail marked on SOTA maps.)

When planning a hike to a summit, the first thing I do is to Google the name of the summit and the words trail, trailhead, or hike. If someone has written up a guide, this search will usually find it.

#### Topographic Maps

The next resource to check is a USGS topo. Visit <http://store.usgs.gov> and select "Map Locator & Downloader." You can use this to download topographic maps (often called "quads" or "quadrangles"). These maps show mountains, streams, dirt roads, trails, and other geographic features. You may have learned to read these as a Scout. You can download PDF files with the exact map you would see on a paper map. These are big files; they will take time to download and your PC [will] display them sloooooowly. If you prefer, you can purchase paper maps from the same site.



There will be many editions of a map on the USGS site. I usually download the 2 or 3 most recent, look to see which is intelligible, and discard the rest. The newest edition often adds aerial imagery, which makes them tough to read.

Take a quad with a grain of salt. Just because it shows a road/trail is there, it doesn't mean the route is passable. If you see a candidate route, use [Google Earth](#) to see if you can find evidence that the road/trail is still there. When you travel, the reality on the ground supersedes the reality on the map!

[National Geographic Trails Illustrated maps](#) are an excellent resource, if there is a map for your destination. These are much like a quadrangle, except they often contain more relevant detail.

#### Reaching the Trailhead

Once you've found a trail, you'll need to navigate the drive to your trailhead. Google Maps has worked well for me for 90% of my back-country trailheads. Occasionally, it thinks that a power line right-of-way is a road, so watch out for unnaturally straight lines on the route. Occasionally, it will route you via a closed Forest Service road. You can check for gates on the relevant [Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Map] ([http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv\\_maps.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtml)).

*(Continued on page 7)*



# SOTA - Continued

*(Continued from page 6)*

## A Word About GPS

When you head out into wilderness, you may elect to carry a GPS. Don't take a GPS designed for use in a car! You don't want a *street* GPS; you want a *topographic* GPS. I recommend using a dedicated GPS and not a smart phone app. The dedicated GPS will show your position more accurately and its batteries will last much longer. (I've found multiple people on the trail who were using an app who were not clear on their location.) I recommend a rainproof GPS. I have one with a tiny little screen, and I've never really needed a bigger display. You will want a GPS with a moving map display, and not just a latitude/longitude display.

Do not rely on your GPS to get you back to the car. Pay attention to your route. Have a plan for how to find your car if the GPS fails. Risks include electronic device failure, a geomagnetic storm, dead batteries. (I once dropped my GPS as I was crawling through rhododendron.)

## Bushwhacking

If you bushwhack, navigating *to* a summit is easier than navigating back to the trail. If you're on the right mountain, heading up will eventually reach the summit. When you come down, there are an infinite number of destinations you reach by heading down.

I avoid bushwhacking unless the sun is shining; I prefer to bushwhack in the winter. It is easy to travel in a straight line when you can see your shadow. If your GPS conks out, you should know the general direction to head in order to find the trail. When planning your trip, plan a fail-safe route back to the trail that has you hitting a long stretch of the trail perpendicularly. You want to know that even if you're off course by 30 degrees, you've got a big target to hit.

## Wrap-up

I won't get into general wilderness safety. For that, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten\\_Essentials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Essentials) is a good place to start. Some really nice summits are off the beaten track. They just require a little more planning. To get you started, guides for several southeastern summits can be found at <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-trip-library>.

See you on the summits!

73, DE [K4KPK](#) / *Kevin*

## Where can I find out more?

Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>

Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>

K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>

E-mail me (K4KPK). My e-mail address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

## Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. He has completed more than 150 activations.

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# What's Happening?

## Youth Net Started August 19



Please encourage any young hams or young people interested in amateur radio to join in the Youth Net. It started Wednesday August 19 and now young people have the opportunity to chat with their peers across the metro Atlanta area, across Georgia, and perhaps across the country via this net.

This net is held on the **NFARL 145.47 Sweat Mountain repeater** beginning at **7 PM** EDT. Echolink participation is encouraged. Connect to node NF4GA-R (number 560686). Only youth 18 and under are invited to participate. Designated adult mentors have kicked it off.

The NFARL Do Drop In chat room (<http://nfarl.dodropin.org/>) will be active during this net. Young hams should check in there, too.

The Youth Net is a project of the Mill Springs Academy RC.

Questions? Contact Martha W4MSA See [qrz.com](http://qrz.com) for e-mail address.

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## **HamCram Technician License Class** **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**

This is an entry level study session. You will need study materials in advance of the session. We use the Technician Class by Gordon West. It is available from many sources including Ham Radio Outlet in Doraville. There is no charge for the class, but there will be a \$20 charge for lunch and the Technician license exam immediately following the class. There is a no refund policy for no shows. Read more to [register for class](#).

**Location is at the EOC , 800 Hi-hope Road Lawrenceville.**

[W5YI](#) for more information on Testing, etc..... For more information on the test session [click here](#) to e-mail the instructors. Study: 8:00am to 5:00pm -- Thirty Minute Lunch Break. -- Exam Session: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

**\*\*\* Pre-registration is Required**

**\*\*\* Register via PayPal \*\*\***

**There is a no refund policy for no shows.**

[http://www.gars.org/w4gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=131:ham-cram-2&catid=32&Itemid=101](http://www.gars.org/w4gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=131:ham-cram-2&catid=32&Itemid=101)



# What's Happening? (Continued)

## **GARS will participate in the September VHF Contest September 12**

This is an introduction to the contest. Plans are to setup VHF station, UHF Station and 6 Meter station. We'll have beams for each.

We'll need 3 pop up tents. 3 tables. I think we have the antennas and radios already arranged. Those that are there at 12:00 when we order will be furnished pizza for lunch. Cold drinks will be furnished.

I'll post a signup sheet and equipment needed link on the web site next day or so.

**Use this link to** [Let us know you plan to attend!](#)

Initial plans are to start setup at 12:00 noon and we'll operate until about 5:00pm.

We will operate from just inside Bogen Park. <https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/portal/gwinnett/Departments/CommunityServices/ParksandRecreation/OurParksandFacilities/GuidetoYourParks/BoganPark>

This is an ARRL contest and additional information is available on their web site.

Final info and directions will be posted on the GARS.org web site.

**Objective:** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

*Norm,* WA4ZXV

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### **A BIG Thank You...**

... to Amy (KE4IKF), Ed (WA4YIH) and John (WB4QDX)

for traveling to Stockbridge on Saturday and presenting a very interesting class on D-STAR and D-RATS. There were 29 hams in attendance.

The NBEMS "hands-on" session after lunch was also well attended and very informative thanks to Mike Crowe, AJ4GU.

73,  
Buzz Kutcher, CEM  
K3GWK  
EC/RO Butts County



# Beginner's Corner

“I can hear him. How come he can't hear me?”

This is a common question among new hams. Most new hams start out operating on VHF or UHF frequencies. This means line-of sight communication in most cases. Assuming a majority of new hams have a “handy-talkie” [HT]; a little radio running at about 5 watts, let's take a look at some reasons why the person you are listening to on your new radio can't hear you.

**First**, the other person may have a more powerful radio than you do. More power equals more distance, up to a point. **Second**, if you are talking on a simplex frequency, the other person may have a bigger antenna than you do. If you have not purchased a better antenna than the stock “rubber duckie” antenna that came with your new HT, it might be well worth looking into. Also, an outdoor antenna usually beats an indoor antenna.

If you are considering purchasing an outdoor antenna, there are two main kinds. The first is an *omni-directional* antenna. It radiates equally in all directions. The other kind of antenna is a *directional* antenna. It sends all or most of your signal in one direction mainly. It does not use any more power, but throws all or most of your transmit power in one direction. A directional antenna will also receive a weaker signal better in the direction that it is pointed.

Third, consider *height*. Since we are talking about line-of-site propagation, it should go without saying that higher is better. You might be at a lower elevation than the other station or the other station has a higher antenna than you do. Take that handy talkie with you the next time you go to the top of Stone Mountain!

**Repeaters.** Repeaters almost always have a high antenna, and they usually have more power. Hence, you might hear a repeater on your radio, but your signal might not make it to the repeater's antenna.

In my situation, I live on the back side of a hill. Hitting the repeaters in Lawrenceville and points north is not easy. I put an antenna up on a nearby tree, and what a difference it made. Yet even with a power amplifier, I cannot hit the North Fulton repeater from my location. Getting a better signal out is a continual process.

73,

*David Harden* - KJ4CMY

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**156 YEARS AGO, A GEOMAGNETIC MEGA-STORM:** On Sept. 2nd, a billion-ton coronal mass ejection (CME) slammed into Earth's magnetic field. Campers in the Rocky Mountains woke up in the middle of the night, thinking that the glow they saw was sunrise. No, it was the Northern Lights. People in Cuba read their morning paper by the red illumination of aurora borealis. Earth was peppered by particles so energetic, they altered the chemistry of polar ice.

Hard to believe? It really happened--exactly 156 years ago.

<http://spaceweather.com/>



# Historical Information

## Kay Craigie - N3KN at the August Alford Memorial Club Meeting

A couple of weeks ago I attended the August meeting of the Alford Memorial Radio Club along with several other GARS members to meet and to hear Kay Craigie, N3KN. In case you don't recall, Kay is President of the American Radio Relay League, our national association. Kay is originally from Atlanta and graduated from Georgia State University in 1968 before moving to Pennsylvania where she earned a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her father was an active ham in Atlanta and for several years a member of the Alford Memorial Club. Kay now lives in Blacksburg, VA with her husband, Carter Craigie, N3AO. She was in Atlanta for a class reunion and accepted an invitation to speak at the Alford Memorial Club meeting. Kay is a dynamic and very entertaining speaker and a great asset to our hobby.

In 1954 when I was in high school and learning Morse code and was studying to take the Novice exam, I first became an ARRL member. At that time and for many, far too many, years afterwards I had no idea of the role that the ARRL had played and continues to play in protecting our hobby so that Amateur Radio continues to exist. I simply thought of my ARRL membership as a subscription to QST Magazine. I could hardly wait each month for a new QST to arrive in the mail. In my early years, the vast majority of equipment used by hams was homebrew most often based on plans and instructions published in QST or in the ARRL Handbook. My first transmitter, a 6AG7 oscillator that, on a good day, would produce about 5 Watts output, was from a QST article that appeared a couple of months before I got my Novice license.

Moving forward through life with a wife, three boys and a career, my Ham Radioactivity came to a halt in the mid 1970's and I no longer subscribed to QST. Then, in early 2007 after retirement I decided to get back into the hobby. I had kept my license over the years (I worked darn hard to pass the Advanced Class Test!) and I still had my home brew 16 tube double-conversion superhet, Viking Ranger and other equipment although none of it had been fired up in over 30 years. I was ready, but the equipment was not! All the filter capacitors were bad after sitting idle for such a long time. HRO was glad to sell me a Kenwood TS-570 and a G5RV that got me back on the air.

Now it was time for me to subscribe to QST again, which I



did. The building articles did not appeal to me anything like I remember . . . almost everything was solid state, which, from a building standpoint, didn't appeal to me. But in the process, after being licensed for over 50 years I finally became aware of what the ARRL was all about. I really don't care about QST all that much anymore from a technical standpoint, although occasionally it will "light my fire" with an antenna article, or operations, or something that not constructed with devices that don't glow in the dark. But I'm a proud member of the ARRL. There is no doubt in my mind that if it were not for the

ARRL, and especially its principal founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, our hobby would not exist today . . . not just in the USA but throughout the world.

In her presentation to the Alford Memorial Club, Kay Kraigie shed light on many of the issues affecting our hobby over the past 100 years. One area in which she feels that the future growth of our hobby is at risk is with HOA's (Home Owner Associations), CCR's (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) and restrictive antenna ordinances. You may think that the Amateur Radio operator simply does not have to reside in a community with an HOA or CCR requirements, but these restrictions are becoming the norm rather than the exception.

GARS has earned ARRL Special Service Club status. This means that we are recognized as a club that exists to go above and beyond for our communities and for Amateur Radio providing active training, publicity programs, and that we actively pursue technical projects and operating activities. It is also important that we individually support the ARRL by being members of the organization. If you are not already a member, I hope that you will consider becoming one.

Submitted by: *Paul Kelly*, W4KLY





# More Happenings

## DC3 Special Events Station

**GARS is operating a Special Events station at Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville**

**Date:** September 26<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** 600 Briscoe Blvd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

*NOTE: Sign-up sheets will be available on the GARS website*

EAA Chapter 690 at Gwinnett County Airport, Lawrenceville, Georgia will host Captain (Ret.) Ron Alexander with his fully restored 1940 Douglas DC-3 on Saturday, June 26 from 9 AM to 6 PM. The Lawrenceville event will help commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the aircraft which has been a true workhorse aircraft since it was unveiled in 1935 in both its civilian and military configurations. While the aircraft helped make air travel popular and profitable in the 1930s and 1940s, the fact that it is still used around the world today is a testament to the aircraft's design. A classic aircraft from the early days of commercial air travel, the Douglas DC-3 re-creates the romance of pre-jet air travel. The aircraft played a vital role in airline history and was the first airliner to make a profit carrying passengers. The technology used on the DC-3 remains in use on many modern day airplanes. The visit provides an opportunity for aviation enthusiasts, grandparents, parents and kids alike to see and ride in this unique aircraft.



## GARS participates in JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)



This is **not** just for Boy scouts. We welcome Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing Scouts, Girl Scouts and anyone who wants to learn about Amateur Radio. We will be offering a Radio Merit Badge Class at JOTA. Additionally GARS member Jeff Cutchins, AB4HF will be teaching the Bugling Merit Badge.

Sign Up for Radio Merit Badge: [Sign Up for Radio Merit Badge](#)

The 58th ANNUAL JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)  
**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**  
Location: VFW Post 5255, 368 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville

gling Merit Badge: [Sign Up for Bugling Merit Badge](#)

For details see the our flyer at:

[JOTA-2015.pdf](#) or contact [Steve Back](#).

Sign  
Up  
for  
Bu-





# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in August

David Maynor (KW4LZ)  
James Myers (KM4LWC)  
Robert Sloan (WA4DD)

New Members: 3

Total Members as of September 1, 2015  
289

Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays  
at

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in September:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
From All of Us at GARS

Karen Albritton (KI4HPP)  
Mary Bachner (KE4MFZ)  
Sherryl Bailey (N3MIU)  
Pierre Decatrel (WB1EZK)  
Stephanie Dickson (KM4FPN)  
James Digby (KK4BWE)  
James Drumm (N2FOF)  
Jim Farmer (K4BSE)  
Roger Gibson (WB4T)  
Neal Gilchrist (W4HNG)  
Jim Glaeser (WB4ZTH)  
Pamela McMurray (KJ4WEI)  
Dennis Nichols (WB4TID)  
Fern Oakes (K4FAO)  
Justin Pike (KJ4AXF)  
Patrick Pike (KJ4AXD)  
Al Seaman (WA2CBM)  
Donald Stewart (KW4AL)  
John Stockinger (KC4RFK)  
Samuel Thomas (AB4HZ)  
Richard Waigand (K4KME)  
Carter Wood (AG4LK)

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY, Dave Bruse, W4DTR

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROLLERS**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only eleven primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN
Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX	Bill KK4AUA
Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ	

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I need 30 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan to post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you, as a rotating NCS, need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord.* KK4TKJ Net Manager



**Don't miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net  
Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm**



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

*Jeff*—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 + PL 82.5  
6m 53.110 - No Tone  
70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**



## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

>>>> NOTE: For more information click the links <<<<

### SEPTEMBER

5-6 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)  
 12-14 [September VHF](#)  
 19-20 [10 GHz & Up- Round 2](#)

### OCTOBER

19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)  
 31-Nov 1 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

### NOVEMBER

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)  
 21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)  
 28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

### DECEMBER

4-6 [160 Meter](#)  
 12-13 [10 Meter](#)  
 20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

For more contest info, go to: [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest\\_Corral\\_1509.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest_Corral_1509.pdf)

### STATE QSO PARTIES FOR SEPTEMBER

Colorado	9/5/2015	9/6/2015	<a href="#">Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association</a>
Tennessee	9/6/2015	9/7/2015	<a href="#">Tennessee QSO Party</a>
Arkansas	9/12/2015	9/13/2015	<a href="#">Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest</a>
New Jersey	9/19/2015	9/20/2015	<a href="#">New Jersey QSO Party</a>
South Carolina	9/19/2015	9/20/2015	<a href="#">Columbia Amateur Radio Club</a>
Washington	9/19/2015	9/20/2015	<a href="#">Western Washington DX Club</a>
Maine	9/26/2015	9/27/2015	<a href="#">Wireless Society of Southern Maine</a>
Texas	9/26/2015	9/27/2015	<a href="#">Texas QSO Party</a>



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## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

#### 09/12/2015 | [Hamfest Augusta](#)

**Location:** Grovetown, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Amateur Radio Club of Augusta  
**Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/hamfestaugusta>

#### 09/12/2015 | [GADSDEN HAMFEST](#)

**Location:** Attalla, AL  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Gadsden Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://www.garc.org>

#### 11/07/2015 | [Georgia Section Convention \(Stone Mountain Hamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Lawrenceville, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Alford Memorial Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://www.stonemountainhamfest.com>

#### 11/21/2015 | [Montgomery ARC Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Montgomery, AL  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Montgomery Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>

#### 01/09/2016 | [TechFest 2016](#)

**Location:** Lawrenceville, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://www.GARS.org>



## BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, **Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

*We enjoy:*

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

**Steve Back, WB2OGY**

Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069

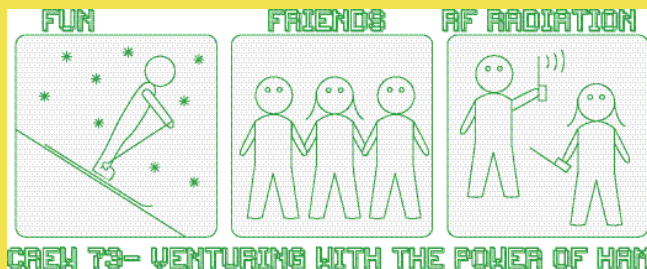
E-mail: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

**Jeff Lee, AF4JL**

Venture Crew 73 Advisor

Phone: 678-475-3165

E-mail: [advisor@venturecrew73.org](mailto:advisor@venturecrew73.org)



## G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, N4XYX  
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Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Vice President



Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ  
Treasurer



Nick Nikley, N0NCQ  
Program Manager



Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Membership Chair



Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
Public Information Officer



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
GARzette Editor



Jeff Cutchins, AB4HF  
Multimedia Chair



John Ackermann, N8UR  
W4GR Trustee



Eddie Foust, WD4JEM  
Repeater Chair



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
Education Chair



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
WAS-Checker, Historian



Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ  
Net Manager,



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Technical Advisor



### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



David Adcock, KA4KKF



Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV





## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### OCTOBER MEETING

*"Lightning Protection & Grounding"*  
by Greg Abernathy, AI4UD

### NOVEMBER MEETING

*Annual Home Brew Show & Tell*

### DECEMBER MEETING

*December - Christmas Party*

Would YOU like to have **your** QRZ page featured in next month's GARzette? If so, please let me know by writing to me at: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) [Ray, N4GYN]

Do you have ideas for the GARzette? What would you like to see or read in the next issue? Perhaps you have a pet subject that you would write about. It doesn't have to be perfect, not even close. You can send me your thoughts, ideas, pictures, comments, objections, or praises, and I can edit them to fit the GARzette style so that everyone can read them and make the GARzette more interesting.

### GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net +  
8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

President Rick, N4YXX, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

First time visitors were welcomed and roundtable introductions were made. Ticket upgrades were recognized.

*NOTE: 77 attendees were present*

### General Business

Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report. Voting took place and the treasure's report was approved

*NOTE: Refreshments proceeds go to the scholarship fund*

Karen, KI4HPP, gave the membership report: GARS has 301 members. *NOTE: Rick reminded us that our designation as a "Special Service Club" requires that 50% of membership also be an ARRL member (GARS receives a portion of the sign-up and renewal fee. see Sid, N4NQ for details)*

Nick, N0NCQ, announced upcoming programs. in September we'll have Bob Gerzoff, WK2Y presenting on the SARK110 Antenna Analyzer

### Net Schedule

- GARS Want, Swap, Sell and Information, Monday's @ 7:30pm
  - ARES Training , Monday's @ 8:30pmm
- Know-it-All, hosted by Jeff, AB4HF @ 8:30pm

### Event Recap

Field Day Recognition - Rick presented Vaden McDonald, NN4K with a certificate for most QSO's made during our recent Field Day exercise. Vaden topped the charts with an amazing 374 CW contacts - congratulations

### Upcoming Events

#### **Huntsville Hamfest**

Date: August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: Saturday 9:00am to 4:30pm / Sunday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Location: Von Braun Civic Center, 700 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801

Website: [www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org)

#### **Dog Show**

Date: August 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 6:00am to 2:00pm

Location: 3650 Jonesboro Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354

*NOTE: Sign-up sheets will be available on the GARS website*

#### **VHF Contest**

Date: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm (*Setup at Noon*)

Location: Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford 30519

#### **DC3 Special Events Station**

Date: September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Location: 600 Briscoe Blvd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (near Flying Machine)

*NOTE: Sign-up sheets will be available on the GARS website*

(Continued on page 18)

## Meeting Minutes cont'd

*(Continued from page 17)*

### **Maker Faire**

Date: October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm / Sunday Noon to 5:00pm

Location: Downton Decatur

### **Jamboree on the Air**

Date: October 17

Time: 9:00am to 3:30p,

Location: VFW Post 5255, 368 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville, GA

### **Break**

### **Program**

Charles Osborne (K4CSO) presented "Working half the US on 2 meters and above"

*NOTE: Rick presented Charles with a certificate of recognition for the program*

### **Raffle**

Meeting concluded at 9:00pm

*Nick,* AB4CQ, Secretary

## GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	1 6:30 - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	2 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	3	4	5 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
6	7 <b>LABOR DAY</b> 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	8 5:00 - 6:30 PM Dinner at Flying Machine <b>7:00 - 9:00pm</b> <b>GARS Meeting</b>	9 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	10	11	12 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast <b>Noon - 5pm</b> <b>VHF Contest</b> <b>Bogan Park</b>
13 GARS VE Team Testing Session 1:45-4pm Gwinnett County Fire Station #5	14 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	15	16 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	17	18	19 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
20	21 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	22	23 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	24	25	26 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
27	28 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	29	30			



Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results	Metro Club Meetings
<p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</i></p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b>  2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov)  VEC: WCARS  Braselton Public Utility Building  4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA  Roger Gibson, WB4T  (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560  <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b>  2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  VEC: WCARS  Hall County EOC  470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.  Perry Roper, KO4RD  (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b>  10:00 AM  Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center  13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004  Ian Kahn, KM4IK  E-mail: <a href="mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com">km4ik.ian@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b>  VEC: ARRL  8:30 a.m.  GMC Community Ctr  5325 Leon St.  Stone Mountain, GA  Frank Haynes, KV4SP  (678) 467-3712</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b>  VEC: W5YI  2 pm  Gwinnett County Fire Station #5  3001 Old Norcross Road  Duluth, GA 30096  Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR  E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b>  VEC: W5YI  2 pm (Except December)  Lifeway Church  1654 Atlanta Highway #109  Steve Donellan, N5SMD  (404) 520-0368  E-mail: <a href="mailto:n5smd@comcast.net">n5smd@comcast.net</a></p> <p><i>(cont. next column)</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday's exam session 8/9/2015 was very successful.</b></p> <p>We tested six and all of them passed their exams. Results:</p> <p>1 upgrade to Extra  5 new Technician</p> <p>Thanks to the following VE's who made this session a success:</p> <p>Frank Haynes, KV4SP  Don Bagby, KK4NJM, Co-CVE  Hal Prosser, KK1B  Karen Whited, AB4NW  Larry Whited, AB4NX  Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN  Dave Bruse, W4DTR, CVE  Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ</p> <p><i>73, Sid Weaver, N4NQ, Co-CVE</i></p> <p>GARS VE Team Leader  E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p>GARS VE Website:  <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/</a></p> <p><b>Fourth Tuesday</b>  ARRL VEC  7 pm @ United Way Service Center  6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville  Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  (770) 942-6466</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday</b>  2:30 pm Georgia Tech  VanLeer Elec. Building  Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.  See <a href="http://www.w4aql.com">www.w4aql.com</a>  Alexander G. Carver  (404) 894-2936  <a href="mailto:acarver@ece.gatech.edu">acarver@ece.gatech.edu</a></p>	<p><b>First Tuesday</b>  Kennehoochee ARC  Downtown Marietta  Fire Station #1, Training Room  112 Haynes Street  Marietta, Georgia 30060  Meeting begins at 7:00pm  Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b>  Atlanta Radio Club  Georgia Red Cross HQ  1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  Meeting is at 7:30pm  Talk In -146.820(-)  N.E. Georgia ARC  Commerce Public Library  Meeting is at 6:30pm  Talk In - 147.225(+)  PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b>  Georgia Tech ARC  Room W218  Van Leer Electrical  Engineering Bldg.  Georgia Tech Campus  Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b>  Alford Memorial Radio Club  Annistown Road Baptist Church  Intersection of Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd  Stone Mountain  Dinner at 6:00pm  Meeting at 7:30pm  Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b>  North GA QRP Club  Board Room of The  Shepherd Center at  2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta  at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b>  North Fulton Amateur Radio League  Alpharetta Recreation &amp; Parks Dept  Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  13450 Cogburn Road  Alpharetta, GA 30004  meeting at 7:30pm  Talk In - 145.47(-)  For more, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p>

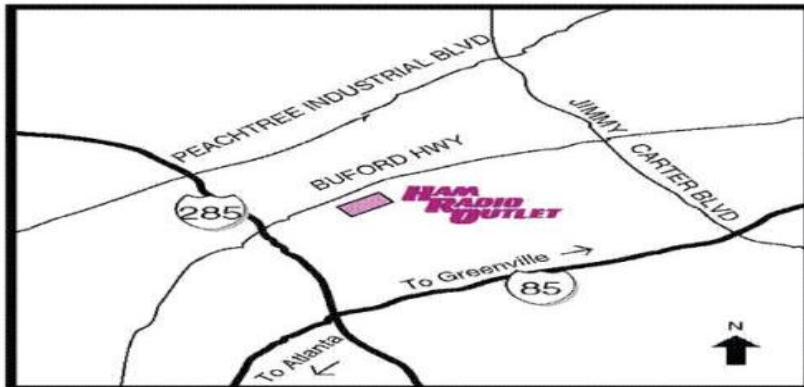
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